

Fourth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018
General Debate

Statement of Bulgaria

Mr. President,

I would like first to thank the Japanese government for generously hosting the Fourth Conference of the States Parties to the ATT and to express our high appreciation for you, ambassador Takamizawa, and the whole Japanese ATT team, for the dedicated efforts in furthering the work on the effective treaty implementation and universalization. Our gratitude goes also to the ATT Secretariat, the chairs and facilitators of the Working Groups as well as to all members of the Bureau and the Management Committee, for the excellent work done in laying grounds for substantial deliverables at the CSP4.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and will make the following remarks in national capacity.

The ATT, as a treaty establishing sound legal regulations to govern the international trade in conventional arms, has undisputable contribution to the international peace and security, to promoting cooperation and transparency among states, preventing illicit arms trafficking and diversion and strengthening the respect for the humanitarian law and human rights. Besides its significant role in reducing the human suffering, it is instrumental also in creating favourable conditions for economic growth and sustainable development and tackling the gender-based violence.

The effective and universal implementation of the ATT is key for the full deployment of its potential. Although the treaty implementation is a national responsibility we need to ensure that adequate assistance for effective implementation is in place. International cooperation and assistance, exchanging best practices, information sharing and transparency play important role as the level of the national export control systems vary in different countries. In this regard, we highly value the work done in the Working Groups on effective treaty implementation, and on transparency and reporting, and the focused discussions held during this year. The proposed recommendations and guiding documents will steer the work towards concrete results in addressing specific issues and best responding to the problems in implementation. The ATT Voluntary Trust Fund also proved its relevance in assisting the states in effective treaty implementation.

We are pleased to see the number of the ATT States Parties growing after the last CSP. We congratulate all countries that have recently ratified the Treaty and appeal to all states that have not yet done so, and especially the major arms exporters and importers, to become parties to the ATT. The success of the Treaty depends on the universality of its adherence and we would like to commend the CSP4 President, as well as the previous ATT presidents and the Bureau members, for the significant efforts invested in promoting the universality of the Treaty. We support the proposal to develop an ATT Universalization toolkit that will enable coherence of the message and facilitate a tailored approach to address the different security and political considerations regarding the accession to the Treaty.

Transparency plays indispensable role in effective implementation of the treaty and in building trust among countries. Bulgaria applies a strict system for arms export control and regularly submits its annual reports that are made public. We encourage all States Parties to the ATT to fulfill in timely and complete manner their reporting obligation.

For Bulgaria the ATT has been always among the priorities in the export and arms control area. Our work is guided by the will to contribute to achieving the treaty's objectives. We have been engaged with the countries from the region in universalization efforts and in sharing experience on export control systems and we are ready to continue this work and provide assistance under the relevant EU Outreach Programmes.

Last but not least, we would like to stress the need to preserve the financial stability of the Treaty necessary for its proper functioning. We call for timely and full payment of contributions and are ready to consider measures aimed at improving the financial situation of the ATT.

Thank you, Mr. President.